



Community Canopy

Michigan's Urban and Community Forestry Newsletter

Fall 2008

Join the Tree City USA Community

The applications for **Tree City USA** are currently available and the deadline is December 31, 2008. To qualify, communities need to have: a volunteer tree board or someone on staff that will be responsible for trees, a tree care budget of two dollars per capita, a tree ordinance, and an Arbor Day Event with an official proclamation. If you have questions about eligibility or the application process, please contact Kevin Sayers at 517.241.4632.

Tree Campus USA

The National Arbor Day Foundation has officially launched the **Tree Campus USA** program. Colleges that effectively manage their campus trees can be recognized. Development of connectivity with the community beyond campus borders to foster healthy urban forests is an important aspect of the Tree Campus USA program. Colleges should also strive to engage their student population in forestry efforts by utilizing service learning opportunities centered on campus and in surrounding communities.

Five standards must be met in order for your college campus to receive annual recognition. For more information on this new program, go to www.arborday.org

Arbor Day National Poster Contest

www.arborday.org/kids/postercontest/

Arbor Day National Poster Contest activity packets are now available! Encourage your 5th grade students to design an original poster depicting the 2009 contest theme: "Trees are terrific... in cities and towns!"

State prizes will be awarded to the top three posters and each winner's school will receive a tree.

1st Place Winner:	\$100 Savings Bond (Student)	\$50 for School Supplies (Teacher)
2nd Place Winner:	\$50 Savings Bond (Student)	\$25 for School Supplies (Teacher)
3rd Place Winner:	Book about trees/environment	

One Activity Packet will be mailed to each school in October 2008. If you do not receive a packet or would like additional copies, contact:

Rachael Wood, Michigan Arbor Day Alliance State Program Coordinator
517-543-5848 x 5 or by email at miarborday@yahoo.com
www.miarbordayalliance.org

To be eligible for the State Competition posters must be postmarked by January 31, 2009

Arbor Day Mini Grant Applications

The Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for the 2009 Arbor Day Mini Grant program. The program is administered by the DNR's Urban and Community Forestry program with funding from the USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry.

The purpose of the Arbor Day Mini Grant program is to highlight Arbor Day and the role that trees and forests play in our everyday lives. Grants of up to \$200 may be requested for planting trees on public lands, hosting an Arbor Day celebration or purchasing natural resource-related materials for libraries.

Local units of government, including cities, townships, villages, public educational institutions (K-12, college, university), public libraries, non-profit organizations, neighborhood organizations (501(c)3 or equivalent), churches and tribes are eligible to apply. Applications must be received by Nov. 13, 2008.

Fifty grants will be awarded through a random selection process. All grants require matching funds equal to the awarded amount. Matching funds may include cash contributions or in-kind services, but may not include federal funds. Grant money will be paid upon project completion. Grant projects must be completed by June 30, 2009.



The first Arbor Day was celebrated in Nebraska on April 10, 1872. Its founder, J. Sterling Morton, had a love of trees that he developed during his upbringing in Michigan. He missed the vibrant array of trees and forests in Michigan and so he championed a tree planting holiday to help replant trees that had been cleared in Nebraska for building materials, fuel and firewood. Arbor Day was first celebrated in Michigan in 1885 and has continued to be celebrated each year since. Michigan celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in April.

For more information or to obtain a grant application, contact Kevin Sayers, at 517-241-4632, or visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnrucf.

The Watering Can – Tips for planting and care



Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

Mature height: 60 to 70 feet

Spread: 50 to 60 feet

Crown: round, symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline

Growth rate: fast

Leaf arrangement: alternate

Light: grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: Clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained. Can tolerate compacted soil and air pollution

Drought tolerance: high

Aerosol salt tolerance: high

Whose Tree is It?

Trees are a nice way to mark boundary lines between neighbors, but when it comes time for tree work or if one party wants it removed, disputes often arise. In community forestry, the issue usually revolves around trees at the edge of the city right-of-way (ROW).

Case law in most states holds that when the trunk of a tree is shared by two properties, it belongs to the owners of both. One party cannot remove the tree without the agreement of the other (and it's best to get it in writing).

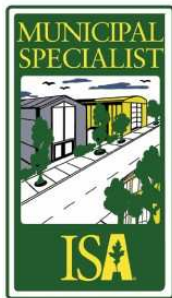
There is case law precedence that when a tree planted completely on one property expands in diameter and crosses the property line – the tree becomes property of both.

Your local ordinance should clearly define when a boundary tree is considered in the right-of-way, and thus be subject to city regulations that cover trees in the right-of-way. In some communities, ordinances state that 51% must be in the ROW, but it is best to follow the example of case law and use wording such as “if any part of the trunk is in the ROW” it is subject to ROW rules.

Source: University of Idaho, Dept of Conservation Social Sciences

Certified Arborists

Compiled by Nancy von Brecht, Executive Director, Forest ReLeaf of Missouri



An arborist is a professional who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining trees. Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns. Trees that are well cared for are attractive and can add considerable value to your property. Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability. Pruning or removing trees, especially large trees, can be dangerous work. Tree work should be done only by those trained and equipped to work safely in trees.

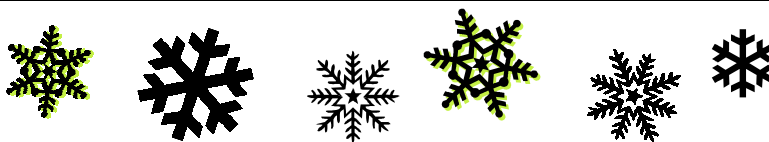
Hiring a tree care company is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Ask if the arborists on staff hold certification from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). ISA offers a range of certification credentials from Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist to Board Certified Master Arborist. To be certified, individuals must pass a voluntary comprehensive exam. Certification must be maintained through continuing education, which means a certified arborist should be up-to-date on the latest in arboricultural technology and acceptable practices.

ISA is a worldwide, professional organization dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation for trees and promoting research, technology, and the professional practice of arboriculture. As part of ISA's dedication to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees, it offers the only internationally-recognized certification program in the industry. For more information, including a list of the certified arborists in your area and additional resources, visit www.isa-arbor.com or contact Nancy Carpenter at 517.337.4999 or asm@acd.net.

DTE Energy Foundation Grants

Watch the DNR UCF website at www.michigan.gov/dnrucf for an upcoming announcement about DTE Energy Foundation Tree planting grants of up to \$3,000 (matching). You must be within the service territory of Detroit Edison Electric and/or MichCon gas to qualify. A mid-November announcement is expected. Deadline for applications will be late December.

Trees Adapt to Winter



While animals cope with winter by changing their behavior or location, trees, of course, cannot. Instead they rely on physiological and structural adaptations to survive the cold and drying conditions of the winter. Trees use four basic strategies to survive winter:

Leaf drop or adaptations for leaf and needle retention: Deciduous trees, mostly the broadleaf trees, drop their leaves to avoid the problem of maintaining foliage. In contrast, evergreens, mostly the needled conifers, keep their foliage through the winter by controlling the movement of air and water through their needles' stomates (openings in a leaf through which gases and water enter or leave) or by being covered with a waxy coating called "cutin."

Physiological acclimatization: All trees undergo an acclimatization process. Like leaf drop, the process is initiated by changes in photoperiod and is controlled by hormones and other chemicals.

Minimizing water loss: The bark and buds of deciduous trees are fairly watertight, but because evergreens keep their foliage, they photosynthesize when the temperature rises and the sun shines. When this happens, water is needed. Although water can be obtained from the ground, within the tree, or the subnivean (under snow) microenvironment, minimizing water loss is important. Stomate control and cutin are two adaptations for this.

Methods of reducing mechanical damage: Snow and ice accumulation can cause breakage, especially under windy conditions. Conifers have growth patterns that minimize the chances of damage. For example, their conical shape effectively sheds snow and their long wood fibers are flexible, allowing the branches to bend under the heavy weight of the snow.

Adapted from the Michigan Forever Teacher's Guide (MSUE)
www.dsisd.k12.mi.us/mff/Environment/WinterTrees.htm by Karen Bennett, UNH Cooperative Extension

Dig This

A study of Chicago's urban forest found that increasing tree cover by 10 percent (an additional three trees per building) would reduce total heating and cooling energy use 5 to 10 percent. At a national level, researchers estimate that planting three additional trees for each building in the United States could save more than US\$2 billion in energy costs annually. (McPhearson, 1994).

Federal FY 2009 Budget Released

The President's budget for federal fiscal year 2009 proposes big cuts in all USFS State and Private Forestry programs. The President proposed an 82% reduction in the Urban and Community Forestry program, from \$27.7 Million to \$5 Million. The process now moves to the House and Senate to make revisions before voting and final approval. If enacted as proposed, this would virtually eliminate the Urban and Community Forestry Program, which provides funds to all states to support technical and financial assistance to communities.

In the coming months, Alliance for Community Trees (ACT) will work with its partners in the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition to develop a response and recommendations for the FY 09 budget. You are encouraged to join their campaign by visiting them on the web at www.actrees.org. The Michigan Urban Forestry Council will work to keep you informed and invite your support for continued strong funding for the national budget.

Michigan Famous and Historical Trees

The Michigan Forest Association, in conjunction with the Michigan Forestry and Parks Association and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is searching for famous and historic trees in Michigan. As part of a nationwide effort to locate and document these trees, the Association plans to update its book "Michigan's Famous and Historic Trees", last published in 1976.

Many trees, due to their long life, are considered silent witnesses to history. Many of Michigan's famous trees have been lost to old age, storms or disease including the Old Council Tree in Emmet County, where chiefs of the local tribes held council.



The categories of famous and historic trees which the Michigan Forest Association has adopted as established criteria for selection are as follows:

- Trees associated with notable people.
- Trees associated with the development of the nation.
- Trees associated with eminent educators and educational institutions.
- Trees associated with art and artists, literature and writers, law, music, science and the cultural life of the state.
- Trees associated with churches and religion.
- Trees associated with early forestry and conservation.
- Trees with distinctive scenic and esthetic associations.
- Trees historic or famous because of unusual size or age. Most trees in this category will already be on record in The American Forestry Association's Social Register of Big Trees. The Michigan Botanical Club administers a similar program in Michigan. Visit: http://www.michbotclub.org/big_trees/bigtrees.htm
- Trees that have gained prominence due to unusual form or botanical characteristics.

Anyone wishing to nominate a tree for recognition should provide the following information:

- trees species (if known)
- exact location
- reason for historical significance
- present landowner (if known)
- photos (if available)
- contact information

Nominations may be submitted via e-mail to miforest@acd.net or by writing to the Michigan Forest Association at 6120 South Clinton Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827.

Dead and dying ash trees pose a danger to people, property and power lines.

Dead and dying ash trees are a widespread problem in Southeastern Michigan, due to the emerald ash borer, an insect that has invaded ash trees in several states. As a result, the trees, which may grow to heights of 60 feet, become structurally unstable and may fall at any time. Detroit Edison and other utilities are seeing more and more incidents in which ash trees located far from power lines on private property are falling and damaging power lines. For that reason, people are encourage to remove these trees from their property.

There is an expense involved with the tree removal, however, the potential for injury or death to others or damage to homes, vehicles or property is far worse and property insurance may not cover damage caused by the dead or dying trees. For more information, visit

my.dteenergy.com/home/clearance/aboutLineClearance.html.

City of Marquette receives MUCFC Urban Forestry Award

The Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Council (MUCFC) recently announced its first ever award for Governmental Excellence in Urban Forestry. This honor is given in recognition



of commitment and excellence in the management and care of trees and urban forests in Michigan. A plaque was presented to the City of Marquette on September 18th as part of the Arboriculture Society of Michigan's awards ceremony and conference in Frankenmuth. Accepting on behalf of the City was arborist Paul Albert who has been with the city for 22 years.



Congratulations to Paul and the City of Marquette for a job well done!

Tool Shed

Links to Forestry tools on-line

Opportunity for small grants to stimulate community greenway planning and development through the Kodak American Greenways Awards Program

www.conservationfund.org/node/245

Fact Sheets for 680 trees

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/trees/index.htm>

Storm Damage Risk and Pruning Guide

www.cnr.vt.edu/urbanforestry/stormdamage

Citizen Planner Online

<http://cponline.msu.edu>

- Free planning and zoning primer
- Planning assessment tools
- Information about Farmland Protection and Risk Management

MSU seasonal Landscape Pest Alerts

<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/land-cat.htm>

Urban and Community Forestry Council Members:

Michigan Dept of Natural Resources

USDA Forest Service

R. Gentry, **City of Adrian**

J. Adams, **City of Cadillac**

J. Dunmire, **City of Warren**

T. Abramson, **Delta County ISD**

B. Van Liere, **Frederik Meijer Gardens**

M. Baeckeroot, **Oakland Comm. College**

R. Salminen-Witt, **Greening of Detroit**

B. Lawrence, **Lawrence Arbor Care**

N. Carpenter, **Arboriculture Society of MI**

B. Cregg, **Michigan State University**

B. Bricault, **MSU Extension**

K. Fischer, **Non-profit Representative**

Vacant - **Landscape Architect**

T. Kennedy, **Great Lakes Energy**

V. Foerster, **West MI Tree Service**

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